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A signal from a remote control is used to operate a device having a built-in communication port and a built-in microprocessor, even though the port does not normally recognize the signal. Specifically, even if the port flags an error during decoding of information from the remote control signal, the microprocessor ignores the error and uses the decoded information in the normal manner. Therefore, the microprocessor recognizes a pattern formed at the communication port by a signal emitted by the remote control, e.g. to identify a button on the remote control that has been pressed. During the recognition process, the port flags one or more errors (such as framing error, parity error), and such errors are ignored by the microprocessor. Programming the microprocessor to ignore errors from the port allows the device to operate with signals in a format different from the format normally recognized by the port. When use of the remote control is completed, the device may be returned to normal operation, wherein erroneous information is rejected.